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Industry Series

Preliminary Report

## Concrete Work Special Trade Contractors

### SIC 1771

During 1977, the establishments with payroll in this industry had business receipts of \$5.1 billion. Of this amount, \$5.0 billion were receipts for construction work, an increase of 38 percent compared with 1972. Their payments for construction work subcontracted to others amounted to \$299 million leaving net construction receipts of about \$4.7 billion. Total average employment in the industry showed a decrease of 6 percent from 1972 to 138.5 thousand employees. Payroll for 1977 amounted to \$1.5 billion. Value added at \$2.7 billion in 1977 was 28 percent more than in 1972.

The Concrete Work Special Trade Contractors industry includes establishments primarily engaged in concrete work. The industry also includes establishments engaged in surfacing concrete floors, applying seal to concrete or asphalt surfaces, constructing with gunite and stucco, and constructing private driveways and walks of all materials. Concrete work done by general contractors engaged in highway and street construction is classified in industry 1611. Concrete work incidental to the construction of foundations and concrete work included in excavation contracts is classified in industry 1794. For a more detailed description, see the 1972 SIC Manual.<sup>1</sup>

For this census, a "construction establishment" was defined as a relatively permanent office or other place of business at which or from which the usual business activities related to construction were conducted. A separate census report was required from each establishment but not from each construction site. Instead, the data for work at each site were included in the report from the appropriate office or branch office. Foreign construction activities were not included in this census.

The 1977 Census of Construction Industries is the sixth census of construction establishments in the United States. As in previous years, it was conducted jointly with the censuses of mineral industries, manufactures, retail trade, wholesale trade, and service industries under authority of title 13 of the United States Code. Although the first construction census was conducted covering 1929, only the data from the censuses of

1967 and 1972 are comparable with the 1977 data.

The 1977 estimates for establishments with payroll in all of the construction industries are based on reports from a probability sample of approximately 181,000 establishments selected from about 536,000 construction establishments with payroll. The sample included all construction establishments with a payroll equivalent of 15 or more full-time employees and a sample of those with fewer employees. There were two exceptions: In SIC 1521, sampling was employed in establishments with less than 20 employees because of the large number of establishments in that industry; in SIC 1795, all known establishments were included because of the very small number of establishments in that industry. The data obtained from the sample were inflated to represent all construction establishments with payroll. Complete descriptions of the sampling and estimating procedures will be included in the final reports.

Since the data in this report are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability and may be expected to differ from results which would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules and procedures. The standard error shown in the tables is a measure of sampling variability, i.e., the variation that might occur by chance because only a sample of the population was surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error partially incorporates the effect of random errors of response, but it does not take into account the effect of any consistent biases due to those types of errors. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference is less than twice the standard error.

This report does not include figures for separate adminis-

<sup>1</sup> Standard Industrial Classification Manual: 1972. For sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Stock No. 4101-0066. Price \$6.75. 1977 Supplement. Stock No. 003-005-00176-0. Price 90 cents.



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Table 1. Detailed Statistics for Establishments With Payroll: 1977, 1972, and 1967

(Thousands of dollars. Detailed figures may not add to totals because of rounding. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see text)

Item	Concrete work special trade contractors (1771)			Standard error of estimate (percent)		
	1977	1972	1967	1977	1972	1967
Number of establishments.....	18,359	17,772	14,263	2	2	3
Proprietors and working partners.....	12,234	12,394	11,711	3	3	4
All employees:						
March.....	106,695	113,802	87,389	1	2	2
May.....	148,287	152,421	120,319	1	2	2
August.....	157,087	165,456	132,638	1	2	2
November.....	141,485	151,380	113,933	1	3	2
Average.....	138,508	147,924	114,879	1	2	2
Construction workers:						
March.....	94,003	101,733	77,870	1	3	2
May.....	133,369	139,368	110,209	1	2	2
August.....	142,710	152,308	122,425	1	2	2
November.....	127,473	138,173	103,827	1	3	2
Average.....	124,504	135,041	104,980	1	2	2
Other employees:						
March.....	12,693	12,069	9,506	2	3	3
May.....	14,918	13,053	10,134	2	3	3
August.....	14,377	13,148	10,278	2	3	3
November.....	14,012	13,207	10,204	2	3	3
Average.....	14,026	12,901	10,309	2	3	2
Payroll, all employees.....	1,467,006	1,197,014	696,002	1	2	2
Payroll, construction workers.....	1,247,080	1,045,342	606,320	1	2	1
Payroll, other employees.....	219,926	151,672	89,991	1	3	3
First quarter payroll, all employees.....	244,191	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Employer costs for fringe benefits.....	294,975	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Legally required expenditures.....	169,014	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Voluntary expenditures.....	125,961	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
All business receipts.....	5,142,949	3,699,141	2,168,817	1	2	2
Total construction receipts.....	5,026,531	3,650,338	2,126,761	1	2	2
Receipts for work subcontracted in from others.....	3,098,035	1,960,805	1,074,219	1	2	3
Other business and land receipts.....	116,418	48,803	42,523	2	5	3
Net construction receipts.....	4,727,251	3,452,348	1,999,739	1	2	2
Value added.....	2,740,417	2,141,289	1,243,873	1	2	2
Selected payments.....	2,402,532	1,557,852	926,634	1	2	2
Materials, components, and supplies.....	1,978,241	1,359,862	1,797,926	1	2	2
Construction work subcontracted to others.....	299,281	197,990	127,081	1	3	6
Selected power, fuels, and lubricants.....	125,011	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Electricity.....	10,014	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Natural gas.....	6,721	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Gasoline and diesel fuel.....	96,526	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Lubricating oils and greases.....	8,413	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	3,341	(NA)	(NA)	3	(NA)	(NA)
Rental payments for machinery, equipment, and structures.....	91,061	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
For machinery and equipment.....	80,018	63,501	37,928	2	7	3
For structures.....	11,043	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Selected purchased services.....	139,004	(NA)	(NA)	7	(NA)	(NA)
Communication.....	35,180	(NA)	(NA)	27	(NA)	(NA)
Repairs to structures and related facilities.....	4,589	(NA)	(NA)	3	(NA)	(NA)
Repairs to machinery and equipment.....	99,235	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Capital expenditures.....	204,137	132,804	74,089	2	3	3
New.....	153,258	104,967	56,606	2	3	3
Structures and related facilities.....	12,906	6,963	5,740	7	15	6
Machinery and equipment, including automobiles and trucks.....	140,352	98,004	50,866	2	3	2
Automobiles and trucks intended primarily for highway use.....	60,558	(NA)	(NA)	3	(NA)	(NA)
Used.....	50,880	27,837	17,483	4	7	5
Structures and related facilities.....	3,427	5,614	2,010	11	12	9
Machinery and equipment, including automobiles and trucks.....	47,453	22,223	15,473	3	8	4
Fixed assets and depreciation:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	1,141,097	707,394	(NA)	1	3	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	591,531	343,417	(NA)	1	3	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	549,566	363,977	(NA)	2	3	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	125,435	86,551	(NA)	2	4	(NA)
Structures, additions, and related facilities:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	116,606	64,803	(NA)	3	7	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	40,883	18,148	(NA)	2	7	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	75,723	46,655	(NA)	3	7	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	5,933	4,343	(NA)	4	11	(NA)
Machinery and equipment:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	1,024,491	642,591	(NA)	1	3	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	550,648	325,269	(NA)	1	3	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	473,843	317,322	(NA)	2	3	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	119,502	82,208	(NA)	2	4	(NA)

<sup>1</sup>Includes data for power, fuels, and lubricants, now shown separately.



Table 2. **Construction Receipts for Establishments With Payroll by Type of Construction: 1977 and 1972**

(Thousands of dollars. Detailed figures may not add to totals because of rounding. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see text)

Item	Concrete work special trade contractors (1771)		Standard error of estimate (percent)	
	1977	1972	1977	1972
Construction receipts.....	5,026,531	3,650,338	1	2
Building construction.....	2,979,336	2,312,459	1	2
Single-family houses.....	1,467,327	798,238	2	2
Apartment buildings.....	291,257	524,078	2	2
Other residential buildings.....	56,211	41,632	4	5
Industrial buildings and warehouses.....	531,390	407,454	2	3
Office and bank buildings.....	159,427	162,403	2	1
Stores, restaurants, public garages, and automobile service stations....	187,824	155,025	3	3
Religious buildings.....	30,921	24,229	6	7
Educational buildings.....	83,416	77,715	3	4
Hospitals and institutional buildings.....	84,751	70,524	2	3
Other nonresidential buildings.....	86,814	51,166	5	16
Nonbuilding construction.....	1,277,863	1,055,001	1	3
Highways, streets, and related facilities.....	960,061	670,387	2	3
Outdoor swimming pools.....	57,871	34,968	6	8
Parking areas.....	65,979	154,950	7	6
Sewers, water mains, and related facilities.....	44,662	26,580	4	7
Other nonbuilding construction.....	149,290	168,116	4	4
Construction work not specified by kind.....	769,410	282,878	2	6

Note: See text for explanation of duplication.

trative offices, warehouses, garages, or other auxiliary units which service construction establishments of the same company. Data for separate central administrative offices and auxiliaries are collected in the enterprise statistics survey, a part of the economic censuses.

This report is one in a series presenting preliminary data collected in the 1977 Census of Construction Industries. The universe for this census included all establishments classified in the construction industries (SIC's 15, 16, 17, and 6552). This report will be superseded by a more detailed final report. In addition to data for establishments with payroll presented here, the final Industry Summary report and the reports in the Geographic Area Series will present limited data for construction establishments with no payroll during 1977.

The totals of construction receipts reported by all construction establishments in each of the several industry, State, or other groupings in this census contain varying amounts of duplication, since the construction work (and the receipts) of one firm may be subcontracted out to other construction firms and, therefore, will be included in the subcontractor's receipts. To avoid this duplication, a "net construction receipts" figure has been derived by subtracting the payments made for construction work subcontracted to others from the construction receipts.

Usually, "value added" is the best measure for comparing the

relative economic importance of industries or areas. It eliminates the duplication in receipts because of subcontracting. It also eliminates from the output measure the cost of materials, which differs in relative importance among areas and industries. For this census, "value added" is equal to all business receipts less payments for construction work subcontracted to others and payments for materials, components, supplies, and fuels. However, for industries for which land receipts are significant, "value added" is equal to all business receipts less land receipts, payments for construction work subcontracted to others, and payments for materials, components, supplies, and fuels.

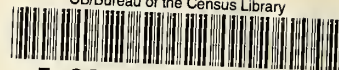
The symbols in the tables mean:

- Represents zero.
- D Withheld to avoid disclosing figures for individual companies; figures are included in higher level totals.
- S Withheld because estimates did not meet publication standards on the basis of either the associated standard error or a consistency review.
- Z Standard error of estimate is greater than zero but less than 1 percent.
- a Sampling error is greater than 40 percent.
- NA Not available; data were not collected.

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